

FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
WOMAN'S HOSPITAL,

HELD AT

Clinton Hall, Astor Place, New York,

FEBRUARY 9th, 1856.

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO MEMORIALIZE THE STATE
LEGISLATURE AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.

New York:

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

WE have met to-day to celebrate the First Anniversary of the "WOMAN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION;" to review what has been done during the past year to further the objects we had in view in its formation; and, with grateful hearts for the encouragement and support we have received and the sufferings we have been blessed in relieving, to start upon the duties of another year, refreshed and strengthened by this review.

This day a year ago, a few ladies met together, to discuss the possibility of organizing an association for establishing a Hospital which should be devoted to the reception and cure of women who were suffering from any disease peculiar to their sex.

They knew that such a Hospital was needed, for they knew that many women were passing weary days and nights of agony, debarred by poverty from seeking medical aid, and for whom no shelter was provided; for the crowded wards of our established Hospital, even if numerous enough to receive them, were no fit places for the class of cases they wished to succor.

A physician was at hand whose life had been devoted to the study of such diseases, whose labors had been blessed by success, and whose inventions and discoveries had brought relief where cure had before been deemed hopeless.

The efforts made to collect funds, by those who had associated themselves together for this purpose, were so far successful, that they felt authorized, by the middle of April, to rent a house and prepare and furnish it for the reception of patients who were daily imploring admittance to the blessings it promised.

On the 4th of May the Hospital was opened, having Dr. J. Marion Sims as its Resident Surgeon, and four of the most distinguished medical names in our country associated with him as Consulting Physicians and Surgeons. Two Matrons, one to attend to the domestic concerns, the other to administer, under the Physician's orders, to the sick, and a good Nurse, completed the officers of the Hospital.

The Hospital contains forty beds, is comfortably furnished throughout, and everything necessary or advisable in the way of diet is liberally provided. To the poor, its wards, and all that it can offer are free, but it is expected that those who can afford it, will pay their board, varying in amount according to

the room occupied. Since the opening of the Hospital sixty-one patients have been received, twenty-one of whom have been discharged perfectly cured, and all who now remain, with one exception, are curable, and in her case the suffering has been greatly alleviated. Nor is this all that the Hospital has effected, for its out-door patients exceed its inmates in numbers, and have shared as largely in its healing mercies. From the far West, and from the extreme South, patients have journeyed painfully on to this promised haven of relief; nor have their hopes in any one case been disappointed. Released from suffering, restored again to vigor and health, they have returned to their distant homes, to tell to other despairing sufferers the mercies and blessings of the "WOMAN'S HOSPITAL."

The majority of the patients have been those too poor to pay; and they generally come to the Hospital so enfeebled by disease, neglect, and meagre fare, that a long time is necessary to prepare them to receive its full benefits.

Of course, in such an establishment the expenses are very great, and the liberal support of the public needed to sustain it. Without the aid received from the city authorities in a donation of \$2,500 we could not have sustained ourselves thus far; for the entire amount collected from subscriptions and donations is only \$2,561.25, and from board of patients \$288.18, while our expenses average \$500 per month.

Were our object a sectional or a contracted one, this statement might appal us; but our appeal for aid is addressed to every woman and man in the land. To every woman: for if she have suffered, she knows the depth of woe for which we offer relief, and will surely offer her mite to aid in healing her suffering sisters. If she be strong, let her make a thank-offering to God, by endeavoring to rescue those less blessed than herself. And surely no man who remembers a mother's or a sister's love, whose hearth is brightened by a wife's devotion, or whose future is cheered by the hopes which cluster round a daughter's head, will refuse to listen or respond to an appeal for aid from suffering woman. Let each and all, then, whom our appeal shall reach, give as God has blessed them, and help us to sustain and extend the healing blessings of the "WOMAN'S HOSPITAL."

Where all have exerted themselves, credit is due to all; but we would be unjust to ourselves were we to omit to render our public approbation and thanks to Mrs. T. C. Doremus, the Assistant Treasurer, who has, from the hour of the first meeting, been instant in her exertions, and to whom, more than to any other, or all others, is to be attributed the comfortable and successful organization of the Hospital.

Would that we dare speak as we feel of the devotion of our Resident Surgeon; but, shrinking as he does from all public eulogy, we must leave him for his reward to the oft-repeated blessings invoked upon him by those he has relieved from torture, and to the happy consciousness that, like his Master, he is going about doing good.

First Anniversary of the Woman's Hospital.

THE First Anniversary of the WOMAN'S HOSPITAL was celebrated at Clinton Hall, Astor Place, on Saturday evening, February 9, 1856.

At an early hour the capacious room was crowded with a brilliant audience, composed of ladies and gentlemen of the highest standing, who sympathize with the objects of the Institution.

Dr. John W. Francis, President of the Medical Board, took the chair. Seated on either side of him were the other members of the Medical Board, viz. :—Drs. Valentine Mott, Alex. H. Stevens, Ed. Delafield, Horace Green, and J. Marion Sims, with the Rev. Dr. Osgood, Rev. Wm. H. Milburn, Rev. A. D. Gillette, Peter Cooper, Joseph Curtis, Dr. Horace Webster, Hon. B. F. Butler, R. B. Minturn, T. C. Doremus, Dr. R. S. Kissam, Dr. A. K. Gardner, E. C. Benedict, Rev. S. D. Burchard, and others.

After an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gillette, the President addressed the meeting, as follows :—

DR. FRANCIS' ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen :—With becoming deference I arise, to trespass for a few moments on your kindness. I have, on several occasions, during a life of some duration, given utterance to my feelings on topics of public and of individual interest; but at no previous time have I so felt the inadequacy of language worthily to convey to you the emotions which influence me at this present speaking. In this great city, already so signally characterized by enterprise, by monuments of vast public utility, by an unprecedented provision for universal education, by numerous charities, well known as hospitals, dispensaries, alms-houses, houses of refuge, retreats for the insane, infirmaries for the blind, ophthalmic institutions, and homes for the deaf and dumb—all designed for the alleviation of physical suffering, and for moral improvement—it would seem at first glance that no room was left for further demands on the liberality of the affluent, the humane, and the benevolent. Grateful to the philanthropist is the reflection that these numerous organizations have found a location among us; and thrice happy must be the patrons of those noble institutions, in the daily demonstrations they furnish of the mighty service they perform. With all justice they may indeed be denominated the brightest memorials of the liberality of our metropolis, of the wealth of its inhabitants, and of their enlightened and Christian zeal. But there is yet another and a new movement in the

progress of the times, which challenges our deepest sympathies on this occasion, and at this meeting, both on account of the *special* feature which it bears, and the singular blessings to humanity which must flow from its success. Nor will professional renown be laggard in awaiting upon its triumphs, by an effective organization.

It gives me, therefore, the highest pleasure to call your attention to what will be, to a majority present, a new and important undertaking, whether considered in its relations to science, or to a large class of infirmities of the gravest character. Since the Christian religion has swayed the movements of civilized man, provision for the afflicted and suffering has been recognized as a primary social duty; and no form of public beneficence has been more generously acknowledged as a religious obligation than the establishment, endowment, and wise conduct of hospitals; and the humanity of a people has not been inadequately estimated by the number and character of these charities. I need not remind you of the honor and utility derived by Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and other nations, from establishments of this nature. Nor is our own land to be overlooked when we contemplate the Pennsylvania Hospital, so largely indebted to our Franklin; the general hospital at Boston, with its Warren, Jackson, and its Bigelow; the New York Hospital, with the early services of the second Bard, and his noble band of successors, Bayley, Hosack, Post, Kissam, and others; as also the great Bellevue Hospital, with its enlightened medical and chirurgical staff, under the practical attendance of Clark, Wood, and others; the Blackwell's Island Hospital with its resident physician, Dr. Sanger; the State Emigrant Hospital, with its twenty thousand inmates, under the control of the Commissioners of Emigration and the medical and surgical treatment of Cox and Carnochan; the great Infirmary of Baltimore, associated with the skill of Davidge and Smith; the Roper Hospital at Charleston, founded on the bequest of the late Thomas Roper, and effective by the able co-operation of Simons, Campbell, Winthorp, and Horlbeck; the great Charity Hospital at New Orleans, receiving annually twenty-two thousand patients, at the head of which is Dr. Stone, and many other institutions of a similar nature benefiting the several sections of our wide-spread Republic.*

* I extract from the eloquent address, recently delivered before the Orphan Asylum Society, San Francisco, by Frederick Billings, Esq., the following paragraph, which is peculiarly striking, as affording the most gratifying demonstration of the benevolent views the Californian Government has taken in behalf of the policy, so long adopted by an enlightened people everywhere, of providing hospitals for the necessitous sick, and infirm, and the destitute orphan:—

"I record with pleasure the fact, that the first building erected by the Federal Government upon these Pacific shores was an imposing and commodious hospital for the sick and destitute and homeless sailor. Much as a custom-house was needed for the

Institutions of a kindred nature have also found an existence devoted to *special* branches of the healing art. The deaf and dumb, the victims of fever and pestilence, the insane, the blind, have in each great metropolis of Europe their respective retreats, where care and skill are devoted to the alleviation of the "thousand ills which flesh is heir to."

The particular class of diseases to which the contemplated Woman's Hospital is devoted, has now, for the first time in this city, a practical recognition of its claims. Only a physician in large practice, or a benevolent apostle of constant vigilance, can justly realize the imperative need of a hospital for women afflicted with complaints peculiar to the sex, and aggravated by poverty and neglect. The want of such an institution has long been felt and acknowledged, and the idea of such provision as has now been commenced here, was first suggested by the extraordinary success of Dr. Sims, (originally of Montgomery County, Alabama, and now of New York,) while treating these difficult cases. His energy, his benevolence, and his genius, encouraged the friends of medical science and humanity to initiate an hospital.

In 1845, accident first led the inquiring mind of our countryman, Dr. Sims, to the investigation of a peculiar class of affections to which woman is exposed. Filled with enthusiasm, and feeling sure of success, he built a private institution, collected all cases he could find in the country round about him, kept them at his own expense, and began a regular series of philosophical experiments, founded on physiological and pathological science. His operations failed: he was disappointed, but not disheartened. He toiled nearly four years (expending the larger portion of his private means) before a single case was cured. He operated upwards of forty times on three, and twenty-one times on one of them, during these experiments. One obstacle, and then another, and another, was gradually overcome, when the first great operation was finally perfected in March, 1849. But constant mental tension, great responsibilities, and daily toil, had now undermined his health, and he was then obliged to seek change of climate and a higher latitude. Hence, fortunately for us, his location in New York.

Previously to his coming to this city, he had published this great discovery to the world in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*,

accommodation of the business of commerce; much as an edifice, where justice might establish her tribunal and poise her scales; much as a mint, wherein the dust of our mountains might be turned into the coin of the world; much as light-houses upon the headlands to guide ships, freighted with precious wealth and still more precious lives, in their paths upon the deep; much as all these works were needed, remember that the attractive Marine Hospital upon Rincon Point was the first building in its commencement and the first in its completion of all the Federal undertakings upon the Pacific coast."

illustrated with all the wood cuts necessary to make it clearly understood. Of no mean reputation as a surgeon, before, this established his surgical power, and, as a consequence, he was warmly welcomed to New York by the whole medical profession. Our illustrious Mott was the first to recognize him, and the eminent Stevens foremost to suggest to him the propriety of laying his views before the medical profession of this city, on the necessity of organizing a Woman's Hospital. This plan was adopted, and on the memorable 18th of May, 1854, in the Stuyvesant Institute, he delivered an elaborate and lucid lecture on the novel and important doctrines involved in the perplexing subjects of his long-labored studies in this *new* field of investigation. The profession then and there took the matter into their own hands, and appointed a committee of organization, composed as follows, viz.:—Dr. Edward Delafield, Chairman; Professor Mott, of the University Medical College; Professor Stevens, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; Professor Green, of the New York Medical College; Dr. John W. Francis, and Dr. J. Marion Sims, together with a committee of laymen. Of this last-named committee, two only are as yet selected, viz.:—Mr. Peter Cooper and Mr. E. C. Benedict, citizens of universally recognized worth and public spirit.

With the endorsement of the whole profession, and under the special direction of this committee, Dr. Sims was sent as an emissary to plead the cause of Woman. It was a sort of circumnavigation of charity, as Burke expresses himself concerning the movements of Howard. We sent him to the wives and mothers in our city; he laid the sorrows of suffering woman before them; they heard; they sympathized; they spoke; and, lo! the Woman's Hospital springs into existence.

Will you allow me to announce the names of the officers of this first Board of Managers, for this original and important charity? I might mention many other names of noble women who have concurred in this philanthropic undertaking, did the occasion allow. Suffice it to say, their names are not destined to be forgotten. We are not exactly apostolic in these turbulent days; but it is delectable to realize that we have something of the descendants of the Holy Marys still reserved among us.

The first Board of Female Directresses consisted of Mrs. David Colwise, Mrs. William B. Astor, Mrs. Ogden Hoffman, Mrs. Horace Webster, Mrs. Jacob Le Roy, Mrs. T. C. Doremus.

Thus you see that the whole of the undertaking has been conducted in the most unobtrusive manner; few have been apprised of the movement until now, yet, for so short a time in service, the present condition of affairs is most flattering, and the consciousness of having effected so great a good, will be the reward of these public-spirited and philanthropic ladies. The

memoirs of medical men do, at times, record the testimonials which occasionally wait upon the improvers of the hippocratic art. Jenner received a grant for saving more lives than ever any hero sacrificed; but we know that the divine impulse has often led to that modesty which has rejected the premium most cherished by the world. When the Prince Regent gave intimation to Abernethy of his desire to create him a knight, the heroic and disinterested surgeon promptly refused the distinction. Let John Abernethy continue John Abernethy, replied he; the Governors of St. Bartholemew have requested my portrait for their Hall—that is enough; to be placed by the side of Percival Pott is ample return for my life efforts in the cause of the profession; the student of St. Bartholemew's, when I am no more, will be enabled by Lawrence's pencil to know what sort of a looking fellow John Abernethy was. To which emphatic and characteristic remark, his affectionate and sensible wife quietly responded to me, her neighbor at dinner: "How inconsistent would it be for us, dependent as we are upon my husband's professional toil, to assume the barren titles of Sir John and Lady Abernethy." We have examples innumerable of the truth that the real philanthropist has but one ruling passion, success, and that other considerations are subordinate. This Woman's Hospital countenances this idea, and leads to our comprehension of the motives of action.

Prior to this discovery of Dr. Sims, surgery could do nothing for this formidable class of affections. In Germany, Dieffenbach, Jäger, Wutzer, and others, had exhausted all their resources in vain. Prolific Germany seems, in this instance, to have been barren. In France, Dessault, Dupuytren, Lallamand, and, more recently, Jobert, Vidal, and their contemporaries, had been equally unsuccessful, although Jobert claims a success that has never been demonstrated, and I fear that this eminent man, like the late Lisfranc, had scarcely that devotion to practical results, which the written annals of medical science demand from all who give publicity to their cogitations and the issues of their practice. In England, their greatest men, their Coopers, their Abernethys, their Lawrences, their Guthries, could do nothing. Nor have I learned that there has emanated from that practical school of medical and surgical learning, which sheds so much glory over Ireland, a single practical idea, that can be truly said to have favored this improvement; and Scotland, while she justly boasts of her Simpson, has yet to be enlightened by that great professor, ere she can add successful results of practice in these cases, to her ample list of surgical and obstetrical improvements. In Russia, which proffers claim to our regard for substantial and effective light on several of the obscurest subjects of the healing art, we can testify to no advancement in a knowledge

of the intricacies involved in this department of female infirmity. Thus we find universally abroad nothing but "a lame and impotent conclusion" to this order of experiments.

It was reserved for an American to make this discovery in our medical art, which already ranks among the greatest of the nineteenth century, and marks an era in our country from its being made the basis of a Woman's Hospital, auspicious of the most important results in clinical science. Indeed, humanity may luxuriate in the prospects of such achievements of scientific power as this discovery holds out. Human happiness, in its deepest relationships, is secured by deductions from the sound and safe principles now established by Dr. Sims; nor will it be deemed an exaggeration to say that the amenities of domestic life are now, for the first time, exempt from the severest annoyances to which they were before subjected; that health, duration of existence, offspring, the brightest and most precious testimonials of the social compact, are promised with a hope that renders the heart joyous in the anticipation.

I think my language is in no wise immoderate on this occasion. It has been often said that he who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one sprang up before is the greatest of benefactors. Let it be granted.—But of what significance are the bounties of Providence without the capacity of enjoyment. No breathing creature lives who entertains a more elevated idea of the man of elegant literature than myself; but what comparison dare we institute between the researches of the most astute philologist or scholar, and the blessings secured by that art which this discovery imparts as the dew of heaven? We may lose ourselves in admiration of the glories of a Newton, a Rittenhouse, and a Bowditch, and bend in reverence while we contemplate such exalted intellects, and the God who in mercy vouchsafed them to us. But what special relief has the discovery of a new planet bestowed on the physical and moral sufferings of mortals here on earth?

Your copious reading, my enlightened auditory, may bring to your recollection the circumstances which marked the career of the great Cheselden. In the midst of his professional toil he had operated for cataract on a patient, born blind, and whose vision thereby was restored. The novelty of the result invoked the plaudits of the philosophers, and created a new chapter on the history of vision. The illustrious English surgeon became the special object of the philanthropic and of the profession, both abroad and at home: the noble Haller, of Germany, celebrated him; Garth found solace in his society, and Pope received him as among his most cherished friends. Judging from the present aspect of affairs, I think I see in the future, that similar considerations of renown must await the pene-

trating genius and consummate investigations of our Alabama friend, in his high vocation in New York.

There is, moreover, another point of view in which I would fain look at this new Charity. New York is the recognized city in which the first organization of a complete medical faculty was created during our colonial relationship with Great Britain. So early as 1767-8, King's College (now Columbia College) deemed it essential that the science of Obstetrics should form an integral part of a medical school: it was accordingly done, and John V. B. Tennent was appointed the professor. Of this eminent individual I have but few particulars to give; yet they are all most advantageous to his character. He was the son of that famous divine of New Jersey, whose remarkable trance is on record in many books. The young professor was a ripe scholar, a Fellow of the Royal Society, of great devotion in his high calling, and, from all that I could derive, now some forty years ago, from our "oldest inhabitants," a collegiate instructor of more than ordinary eloquence. He was of persuasive utterance, and conscientiously impressed with the importance of his professional labors. As he was of the Tennent family, I can have no doubt of the purity of his life and the soundness of his ethics. Ill health did not permit him to occupy the chair of Obstetrics any length of time. He repaired to the West Indies for physical improvement, and, shortly after his arrival at Bermuda, died of yellow fever. I have dwelt upon these occurrences in order to show how early both the Trustees of the College and the members of the Faculty of Physic appreciated the study of the diseases of Women. A retrospective glance at nearly a century ago will, therefore, give us the gratifying proof that the first institution in the States which conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine was also the first that rendered it obligatory that the study of the diseases of women should be a requisite on the part of the graduate for that honor; and it must prove a cordial to our anticipation of future support in our present undertaking that, as at that early period, when New York could boast of only about sixteen thousand inhabitants, and when the suburbs of the city scarcely extended so high up as the boundaries of St. Paul's Church, that the eminent doctors of that time, the two Bards, father and son, Dr. Nooth, Dr. Farquhar, Dr. De Normandie, Dr. Jones, and other well-known practitioners of eminence, gave encouragement to the collegiate code of instruction then projected; so, too, the faculty of this metropolis at the present day, with its population of seven hundred and fifty thousand, and its corresponding increase in the number of its medical men, have, so far as I can learn, united almost in one sentiment, touching the merits of the contemplated Woman's Hospital. How legitimate, then, is our present measure, inasmuch as New York was the first, chronologically, to found

a professorship of Obstetrics, that she should now become the first, in time to complete the great work of cure of the saddest infirmities to which woman is subjected, and yield the highest devotion to her most important interests. There is no pretext, therefore, for which we ought to abate in our zeal in this great undertaking. Where previous success justifies additional confidence, supineness would be a crime. Nor are there wanting many points of similarity in the generous nature and attainments, note-worthy in the character of the lamented Tennent, and of our accomplished originator of his new method of relief.

Whatever opinions may exist in regard to the popular question of woman's rights, no Christian doubts the sphere of woman's duties; and it may be fairly inferred, that when the latter are nobly performed there is little time or inclination to assert the former. The names of Hannah More and Mrs. Fry, of Miss Edgeworth and Mrs. Childs, of Mrs. Seton and Mrs. Divie Bethune, of Miss Dix, of Miss Andrews, of the Countess Belgiosa, and Florence Nightingale, vindicate the true character of their sex beyond dispute, and are worth all the conventions to legalize the sphere of woman that were ever held.

The Woman's Hospital, my friends, is the work of woman, for the benefit of woman. To the brave and intelligent labors of a society of New York ladies it owes its existence. They have thought much on the subject; they have found there is a means of relief from direst evils; they have taken nothing on trust—they had demonstration, proof positive, proof ample, of the great benefits to the more tender and refined sex which must ensue from an effective co operation in this cause of benevolence. In short, that the bonds of human society might be strengthened thereby. Their duties, though voluntary, were not the less assiduously performed. They saw that the noble science of healing had now enlisted new capabilities—they coalesced as one power in the promotion of their design: their early risings and their evening deliberations all aimed at the same end; formidable as was their task, no melancholy depressed their spirits, no distraction divided their councils. Integrity of purpose made their union strong—Like the ancient Bereans, they put all on trial, and they found nothing wanting, so far as examples of cure, of hitherto *incurable* cases, could lead to conviction. What had been reported of success was no longer an idle hearsay, but a triumphant fact, at which the soul exulted. It is delightful to contemplate that capacity, penetrated as if by a divine fervor, which could so gloriously lead to an harmonious evolution of vast practical benevolence.

You will anticipate me in the few remarks I have yet to make. To New York belongs the honor of originating this institution; to New York

we are compelled to look for its protection and support. It needs enlargement; it demands permanence and greater accommodations. As a metropolitan and as a State establishment, it receives patients from all parts of the State; as a national charity, it receives them from the remotest sections of the Union. That the present edifice on Madison Avenue is too limited for the great objects in view, is painfully illustrated by the perpetual rejection of applicants for relief. Cases, moreover, have entered within its walls which have been under treatment at Guy's, and St. Bartholomew's, and St. Thomas' Hospital, of London, and from various hospitals in our own country; and I cannot say that in a single instance cure has *not* followed operative surgery, long protracted as may have been the previous duration of the case. What an anchor of hope for victory in this laudable design; what grounds of encouragement that this sacred mission will be fulfilled! And if we needed other stimuli to create stronger enthusiasm in behalf of this benignant plan, let us cast our eyes but a few feet around us for illustrative proofs of individual generosity, in the Astor Library and the Cooper Institute.

But, fellow-citizens, notwithstanding the great benefits derivable to science, and to suffering humanity, from the Woman's Hospital, as at present constituted, it is far from coming up to the requirements of the age and the necessities of this mighty city, with its iron bands of intercommunication extending to the remotest parts of our vast country. We need here a Woman's Hospital worthy the name. We want a great State institution—one with at least five hundred beds, two hundred and fifty as a lying-in department, and two hundred and fifty for the diseases peculiar to women.

And while we are projecting it for our own immediate use, let us not be unmindful of the claims of posterity upon us. We should, then, place it in some central position on this island, not lower down than Sixtieth-street—say in the vicinity of Hamilton Square—where it would subserve all the purposes of the present generation, and, in less than half a century, with our increasing growth, occupy not only the geographical centre of Manhattan Island, but the actual centre of population. While, then, it is plainly our bounden duty to assist the noble-hearted women who are now laboring with such praiseworthy zeal in this good cause, it is equally imperative upon us to take the proper steps to secure the enlargement and permanence of this new institution.

Let us, then, here to-night foreshadow the policy that is to guide our future actions. Let this meeting speak forth the voice of New York on this great enterprise. Let us take the preliminary steps to lay the subject before the municipal authorities of the city and the Legislature of the State, and invoke their aid in its behalf.

Fellow citizens, this first Anniversary of the Woman's Hospital is a momentous occasion, and is pregnant with great results. It behooves us, then, to see that we do not fall short of our duty to ourselves, to science, to humanity, and to posterity.

With the present institution for a *mulier*, the holiest sympathies crystallize around the benign enterprise. It is an unique undertaking in the annals of charity; it is a peculiar success of American science. It claims encouragement from all wise and good men, on grounds of positive and practical advantage and necessity. There is no object to which the man of wealth can more judiciously bequeath his surplus fortune, for which the unappropriated affections of the gentler sex can be more honorably expended; wherein the student may acquire more important knowledge, and in behalf of which the clergy and the press—that great modern organ of benevolent activity—can with higher sanction make their eloquent plea. Amid all the diversities of creeds, all the professions and systems that prevail, practical benevolence, love to man, devotion to humanity, in the even scales of Eternal justice, are the great, the only certain equivalent for human errors—the one absolute pledge of human felicity. Charity is the most ennobling of the Christian graces. “Alms,” says the pious prelate, Jeremy Taylor, “alms are the wings on which angels mount.” I will fatigue you no longer. Let the eloquence which I see around me give itself utterance.

Mr. Benedict then read the following letters:—

FROM MAYOR WOOD

MAYOR'S OFFICE, New York, Feb. 9, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR:—I regret that an official engagement of some importance will prevent my acceptance of your kind invitation to attend the anniversary meeting of the Woman's Hospital this evening. I feel much interested in the success of this truly philanthropic Institution, and would avail myself of this opportunity to become better acquainted with it, but for the reason stated.

Thanking you for the complimentary reference to my exertions in the office of Mayor, I am

Very truly yours,

FERNANDO WOOD.

John W. Francis, M.D., 1 Bond-street.

FROM REV. DR. NOTT.

UNION COLLEGE, Feb. 6, 1856.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D.

Dear Sir:—Your request to be present at the first Anniversary of the Woman's Hospital has come to hand. It would, were it in my power, give me pleasure to comply, but I regret to say I cannot be with you on that occasion. In this world of miseries, I feel an interest in all Institutions, the object of which is to alleviate any of them. In a department where relief was called for

by sufferings of no common kind, the Woman's Hospital has already been eminently useful—and I pray God that the life of its founder, Dr. Sims, may be spared to accomplish all that he has designed—and that this Institution, over which you preside, may become another theatre for the realization of your own benevolence.

Very truly yours,

ELIPIH. NOTT.

FROM REV. DR. HAWKS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6, 1856.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:—As it may be out of my power to be present at the meeting on Saturday evening, allow me to express, in this mode, my hearty concurrence in its objects, and to wish it all possible success. Do not, however, misunderstand me so far as to suppose that I presume to give my pretended sanction to the *medical* part of the proposed enterprise. It becomes the members of my profession modestly to leave the business of yours in your own hands. All I know is that I am assured by respectable gentlemen who have devoted their lives to medical science, that they think important discoveries and improvements have been made in healing a class of female infirmities hitherto, for the most part, deemed incurable, and that a "Woman's Hospital" will afford the best opportunity of effecting cures. On that point, ignorant myself, I am satisfied with the testimony, and I believe. But as to the benevolence and Christian duty of ministering to the alleviation of human suffering, that I can speak of professionally, and it is *that* which I here venture to commend in the present undertaking. That is *practical* Christianity, and I would to God that everybody felt deeply his or her obligation to illustrate it in the conduct. It is a very intelligible sort of religion, and looks a little like a humble attempt at the imitation of HIM who very often healed the hopelessly sick, and "went about doing good."

With the warmest regard, yours most truly,

FRANCIS L. HAWKS.

Dr. John W. Francis, Bond-street.

FROM REV. DR. ADAMS.

MADISON SQUARE CHURCH, 9th February.

MY DEAR DR. FRANCIS:—When I passed my word to attend your anniversary exercises, it was with the understanding that they were to be on the evening of Thursday. An engagement, which it is impossible to defer, this evening, deprives me of the pleasure I had anticipated, of joining you and others on the interesting occasion you are to celebrate. If so humble a person as myself should be missed at the gathering, please make my apology for unavoidable absence. I regret the more the circumstances which compel me to forego the pleasure and honor of meeting you, because I should have enjoyed the opportunity of expressing my profound interest in the beautiful and noble charity over which you preside. May heaven reward and bless all who are engaged in dispensing it.

Very truly your friend and servant,

W. ADAMS.

FROM REV. DR. BOND, ED. "CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE & JOURNAL."

135 HUDSON-STREET, New York, Feb. 8, 1856.

DEAR SIR:—Having recently made two visits to the Woman's Hospital, it is with great gratification that I bear testimony to its utility, having there

found a number of those who had been entirely relieved from a state of indescribable suffering under complaints which, during forty years' practice in the profession of medicine and surgery, I had been led to consider as beyond the reach of the healing art.

I am glad that an application is to be made to the Legislature for aid in enlarging and sustaining this noble and most benevolent Institution. The benefits to be derived from it are not limited to the population of the city, nor even of the State.

Hitherto it has been supported by the private charity of the citizens of the emporium of commerce, and, I may be allowed to add, the emporium of benevolence—whose munificent contributions for the relief of suffering humanity find no parallel in the history of ancient or modern times. But private charity, however generously exercised, is not adequate to the foundation or support of an Institution so extended in its objects as that of the Woman's Hospital—nor is it fair to impose so heavy a burden on individual beneficence.

The benefits are to accrue to the citizens of the State at least—and State contribution is demanded for it by every consideration of justice and mercy. I am fully persuaded the great State of New York will not withhold it—and as patients from other States are not excluded, I hope that the wealthy in the whole Confederacy will contribute to sustain a Woman's Hospital, which holds out relief to the most painful sufferings of the sex, not to be found elsewhere.

Yours,

THOS. E. BOND.

Besides these, letters were read from James Boorman, James Donaldson, Jos. B. Collins, C. Vanderbilt, W. E. Dodge, and others, expressive of the liveliest interest in the great object of the meeting.

The President then introduced Dr. Valentine Mott, who addressed the meeting as follows:—

REMARKS OF DR. MOTT.

MR. PRESIDENT:—In almost everything that I had intended to say this evening I have been anticipated by you in your address; but as I happen to be the oldest member of the Surgical Board, perhaps some remarks from me may not be uninteresting to those who listen. This Charity, denominated the Woman's Hospital, was got up for the express purpose of benefiting a class of women who are wives and mothers, and restoring them to health when in one of the most deplorable conditions possible to conceive of. It is governed and supported by the indomitable industry and noble bearing of a few ladies; and, perhaps, it may not be uninteresting for me to say a few words in regard to its origin. Some few years ago, Dr. Sims, whom I had known personally and by reputation, and who was compelled, in consequence of sickness, to leave his Southern home and seek a more Northern residence, saw fit to locate himself in this city. A few days after he arrived, acting from a sense of duty, I called upon him to ascertain not only the condition of his health, but also his views in relation to permanently remaining in this city. I found that his determination was to make his residence with us. At that time I had a lady under my care, who had applied to me to perform an operation which Dr. Sims has so skillfully perfected. Believing that he could perform the operation more successfully than I, and being anxious also to learn the steps by which he per-

formed it, and of which I had read, I gave the patient to him, with the request that he should treat the case. It was a complicated case. The operation was performed in my presence, and it was a complete success. For a number of years we had been in the habit of performing this difficult and delicate operation, but our efforts were not successful. French surgeons have claimed great success in this operation. A few years ago, during my late visit to France and England, I took great interest in witnessing the performance of this operation, and was present when eight cases were operated upon—seven by Jobert, and one by Roux, two of the most distinguished surgeons in Europe—and *all of them failed*. I was anxious, therefore, to learn the steps of this operation as performed by our countryman, Sims. His may be said to be almost a new mode of operating. I am aware that some of our profession, who have become familiar with the operation since its introduction by Dr. Sims, have not felt that they were so much indebted to him as I feel that I am, for the sake of humanity. Dr. Sims is entitled to all the honor and all the credit of originality, and I say *palmam qui meruit ferat*. Go on, Doctor Sims, in your work of charity and benevolence; although no marble urn or inanimate bust may tell of your honor and renown, you will yet have, in all coming time, a more enduring monument; and that monument will be, the gratitude of woman.

The President here called upon Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, who said :

REMARKS OF DR. STEVENS.

MR. PRESIDENT :—The establishment of the Woman's Hospital I consider an honor to the medical profession of the city of New York. It shows alike their liberal feeling and their metropolitan character; and I doubt if the profession in any other city of the Union would come forward so cordially, take a stranger by the hand, and place him in the elevated position to which he is justly entitled. The establishment of that Hospital is an honor to science. It shows that its votaries know how to appreciate services rendered to humanity. It is an honor to the State; and I doubt not the State will consider it such, and will take it under its patronage. When we consider that the operation in which Dr. Sims has so happily succeeded, has exercised the best minds in the medical profession for many centuries, and that success, in any measurable degree, is now, for the first time, attained,—we can imagine the meed of praise that is due to him. Indeed, I know of no discovery that is likely to be so largely beneficial to humanity, and which has originated among us, with the single exception of the employment of ether in surgical operations, as this very one which has led to the foundation of the Woman's Hospital.

Dr. Delafield, being called upon, said :

REMARKS OF DR. DELAFIELD.

MR. PRESIDENT :—I am glad to add my testimony in favor of the high appreciation in which our profession holds Dr. Sims, whose talents have done so much

to aid the advancement of medical science. But I think the medical gentlemen have stated all that is necessary to be said upon the subject; and, hoping that some gentlemen, not of our profession, will speak on this occasion, I prefer not to detain you further.

REMARKS OF DR. GREEN.

Dr. Horace Green, being called upon, said, that the eloquent and pertinent remarks of the gentlemen preceding him, rendered it wholly unnecessary for him to say more, than that the "Woman's Hospital," commanded his hearty co-operation, and he was proud to add, that he was one of its earliest and warmest friends.

Peter Cooper, who was the first of our wealthy citizens to recognize and take Dr. Sims by the hand, and lend the all-powerful aid of his great name as a staunch friend of the Woman's Hospital, was here called to state his views, by the venerable chairman.

Mr. Cooper said—

REMARKS OF PETER COOPER.

MR. PRESIDENT:—The importance of the Woman's Hospital must be self-evident to every reflecting and intelligent mind. The necessity for a hospital to be devoted to particular sexes, and classes of disease, must also be apparent, when we consider the wonderful machinery of the human system, and the great variety of diseases to which we are all liable.

A hospital for any particular class of disease must be regarded, not only as a refuge for the unfortunate, but also as a storehouse for the accumulation of knowledge—that kind of knowledge on which we are all dependent, and which is so indispensable to make our sympathies available for the relief of suffering humanity.

It is exceedingly difficult for us, while surrounded with all the comforts and conveniences of life, to realize the changes that are constantly occurring in the circumstances and conditions of mankind.

It is almost impossible for us to take into our minds the poet's picture, where he describes how groaning hospitals eject their dead, and how thousands groan for sad admission there, and, terrible to relate, they groan for that poor privilege in vain.

Mr. President, it is our privilege and our duty to see that suffering woman shall not longer groan in vain. If the importance of this noble Institution can be properly placed before the public, its permanence and enlargement will be insured. From its beginning, I have anxiously watched its progress—and the more I have seen and thought of it, the more am I convinced of its necessity and utility to this community and to the country at large—and I doubt not that when its claims are presented to our State and municipal authorities, they will be found ready to aid a charity, the success of which affects the welfare more or less of every family in the State.

The President then introduced Rev. Samuel S. Osgood, D.D., who addressed the meeting, as follows :

REMARKS OF REV. DR. OSGOOD.

MR. PRESIDENT :—I feel a sense of depression in arising to speak upon this subject. I feel that its scientific merits can be understood only by your profession. But I feel, moreover, that I am unworthy to advocate its claims, having done nothing to promote it ; it never having been brought before my attention until now. The more a man studies the claims of humanity upon him, this sentiment grows upon him, that that cause has the greatest dignity which presents to him the greatest sorrow and need ;—that a man should never feel so bowed down with the sense of his responsibility, even with a sense of dignity in a certain way, as when he is asked to plead the cause of the unfortunate ; for their cause must honor any man who pleads it with a sincere heart. The movement, which we advocate here to-night, is for woman. We say much about woman and her needs, and yet we do not say the half, nor the tenth-part. Much as we speak of the humane, progressive, and successful civilization of the nineteenth century, there is a dark thread of tragedy that runs through it. Woman is still a victim—still a sufferer. In this city, and above a certain sphere of life, above a certain standard of man's privilege, I know that woman is almost an idol ; but below a certain social mark—a certain average means, woman is not an idol, even in this city. The lot of woman, sick and poor, is a hard lot indeed. It is the tragedy of the nineteenth century, and we need God's grace to join with the efforts of humanity to take away that tragic thread from civilization. Physical pain is a sad infliction, and it seems to take precedence of every other experience : when it rends the body, the usual functions of the physical constitution are suspended ; the digestive powers do not perform their work ; the faculties of the mind are arrested, and sometimes even the affections seem to be checked ; the soul hardly knowing its own high birthright. But there are some physical pains that also carry with them moral pains—intellectual suffering. You have spoken of the invalid wife and mother, who, when sickness prostrates her, cannot secure comfort even amid luxury and Christian kindness ; but much more sad is the lot of the poor sufferer, who adds to the pains which she suffers, anguish at the destitution of her children, deprived of their mother's care ; and thus the anguish rends the soul as well as the body with agony ; and we all say, may the blessing of God rest upon those who bring this solace and relief to suffering woman.

Mr. President, I am glad to meet here to-night the representatives of the medical profession, gentlemen who are patriarchs in the study and practice of the medical art. From my soul I *do* honor the science of medicine. It is a science which does not belong to this man, or that man, but to our common humanity, under the guidance of infinite and eternal wisdom. It is not the creature of one age, but of all ages. It is the child of time, under divine nurture ; and I must say, that, if I ever feel a sense of reverence, it is when I am in the presence of an accomplished and skillful physician or surgeon, who

brings to bear in an especial case, an amount of knowledge and skill, which, when it is compared to the common standard of attainment, is altogether beyond our sphere. I remember, when a young man, of being present at a surgical operation. The poor sufferer was about to have a limb amputated. He was brought into the theatre, and the operation went on. The chief operator seemed to be hardly human—came to have no sensibility; and, without any show of feeling, he came forward and performed the operation, which, in its results, was so merciful to the sufferer. He had disciplined his sympathetic nature, that his work might be more effectual—that he might wound only to heal and save. Medicine is the physical gospel; it is the divine love carried from the sphere of mind into the sphere of matter.

Mr. President, in your excellent address you have spoken of the relation between the studies of medical science and those of astronomical science. I was struck with the comparison. Every night, in hundreds of observatories, there are glasses of marvellous power turned upon different parts of the heavenly spheres. As months pass, we are enlarging the domain of science. Our philosophers are exploring the laws of magnetism; studying all the phenomena of the atmosphere; mapping out, year after year, this great universe in which we live—until their sciences seem to partake something of the starry glories which they seek to celebrate. But, as you say, there is not the same benefit accruing to man from the study of astronomy as from the study of the human frame. Let us turn, then, from this macrocosm—this great universe, to this microcosm—this little universe, the human body—and see the wonders there revealed. How marvellous the results! Every nerve, muscle, vein, and artery is minutely inspected. The chambers in which the tides of life flow are carefully studied, so that the ear of the skillful observer can tell how it is with life, by merely listening to the coursing of the blood. We are all gainers by these studies. Each man, in order to preserve his health, and cure disease, needs the knowledge of all other men. Humanity is one. Each man in this room, by a true humanity, owns what is valuable in all other men; and, poor as I am, I am richer by standing here, because I feel that if I have need of any part of your knowledge and skill for myself or family, I shall have it; and our friend, in contributing his gift to our common possession, is an universal benefactor. We should remember that, by giving to others the goods we have received from God, we glorify His name and receive His benediction.

The President introduced Rev. William H. Milburn, who said:—

REMARKS OF REV. MR. MILBURN.

MR. PRESIDENT:—I—the youngest man upon this platform—may be permitted to speak, because I am the oldest friend of Dr. Sims now present. And now let me tell you a story. Some twenty years ago, or more, a young enthusiast set out with the woman of his choice from his native State of South Carolina, in pursuit of a home—a place wherein he could settle and practice his profession. The home he selected was in the pine woods region of Alabama. Step

by step, this young man urged his way forward, devoting himself to his profession, and enjoying the sports common to the country; for in the South nearly every man is a hunter, having, at least, one dog and one rifle—except the clergy, and they sometimes participate in these sports. At length he became a citizen of Montgomery, Alabama. Chancing, myself, to go to that place to reside, the person of whom I speak became my family physician; and, therefore, my children and my wife having been beneficiaries of his kindness and skill, I am here to-night to say something upon this subject of a Woman's Hospital. I left Montgomery, being called by Providence to other spheres of duty; subsequently, I heard with regret that my friend, just as he was entering upon a career that promised great distinction and usefulness, was failing in health, and obliged to leave his home and resort to a more congenial climate. When I came here, a little more than two years since, an invalid myself, wrecked in health, and almost desperate in fortune, whom should I meet but my old Montgomery friend, who, after going from one place to another in search of that greatest of earthly blessings—health, found, at last, that only here, where the Croton passes through its great arteries, he could regain it. The welcome that this Carolina stranger—this doctor of the piny woods—received from these eminent men—Doctors Mott, Francis, Stevens, Delafield, and Green,—the most illustrious in the constellation of science, is a most noble and striking tribute to the grandeur and dignity of our common human nature. I am proud of the *esprit du corps* that characterizes your profession, Sir,—in this world of envy, meanness, slander, and libel of all sorts. It is a token that comes with authoritative power, and says that there is one profession, (and I believe there are others,) where men rank their fellows according to their deserts and merits. This, our friend has had. And now these men say to him, “here is the influence which our name and repute will furnish you; go to the homes in New York—go to the women in this city and tell them what you propose to do.” Providence seems to have sent that man to tell to womanhood here of his discoveries and their application to the relief of a class of cases, the most helpless, most deplorable, and heart-sickening, that can come within the ken of human vision, or the range of human sympathy. Hearing this authoritative plea, the women of New York responded, as American women always respond to the calls of philanthropy and benevolence. I would not take one jot, or tittle from the well-earned—I had almost said—immortality of renown, of such women as Mrs. Fry and Miss Nightingale; but I do believe that the germinal principle of that same benevolence which carried the one into the prisons of England, and the other to the hospitals of Scrutari, is here around and among us.

Mr. President, it was by this convergence of influences, and causes that the foundation of the Woman's Hospital was laid; and what does it propose to do? It comes to wives and mothers to heal them when in a most deplorable condition. Let me give you an example. A lady, a number of years since, a resident of one of the Southern States, was affected as many of the recipients of the benefits of this Hospital are affected. Her physician told her the state

of her case. What can be done? said she. She was a wife and a mother. Her first-born was lying upon her breast. That infinite depth of tenderness which exists in a mother's heart was just springing up as a fountain of life in her bosom, and she was living for the first time. What can be done? said she. The physician shook his head, and said, your case is incurable. She bowed her head, and in a month was no more. The shock had killed her. I heard of another case: A bright and beautiful girl had wedded the man of her choice. Months passed. She was the idol of her home, surrounded by everything which could render existence desirable. And now, in due time, she becomes a mother. Her little one is lying in her arms, and the young mother enjoys the ecstasy. But her case, too, is incurable. This announcement was crushing to her spirits. She leaves her home—secludes herself in a little cottage on a distant part of the plantation, with but a single attendant, an old and trusty servant, whose face is the only human face she will see. Here, she remains until, one day, she sends the servant off on a pretended errand, and when she has been long enough absent to prevent discovery, in the anguish of her condition, she sets fire to the cabin, and perishes in the flames. It is to cases entailing such suffering as this, that the Woman's Hospital is to devote its energies. But, while we estimate the benefits of this noble Institution, let us not forget the fact that the ladies themselves have accomplished the good work. All that is now asked is room—more room—for the present space is too narrow to receive the numbers of helpless women who are flocking there, and asking the benefits of this Institution. And it is to be hoped, that, when the value of the Hospital is known to the Legislature of the State, it will take it under its patronage. Shall there not, then, radiate from this assembly to-night such an influence as shall move the hearts of wealthy and liberal fellow-citizens to contribute what lies in their power, to complete this noble and God-like Institution? I believe, with the sanction of these illustrious men, it will commend itself to the hearts and consciences of those who can aid it, and that the next anniversary of the Woman's Hospital will find it arrived at a glorious consummation.

The President then introduced Erastus C. Benedict, Esq. Mr. Benedict said:—

REMARKS OF MR. BENEDICT.

I rise, Mr. President, to offer the following resolutions. Certainly no one could be more willing and ready to devote his best abilities to any subject, than I am to the one before us to-night.

The gentleman who has just taken his seat, has spoken of the organization of the Woman's Hospital, and of the class of cases it is intended to benefit. It is not alone, Sir, for the class of terrible accidents so eloquently and delicately alluded to, but it is, as you know, for the treatment of all the diseases peculiar to suffering woman—which are, unfortunately, so numerous, that we must have an immense establishment, if we intend to minister to the wants of all.

The peculiar diseases of woman are not of such a character as to be blazoned before the world—and hence we find this majestic organization, the Woman's Hospital Association, going quietly to work, each member contributing her mite unceasingly, to call this noble Institution into existence, which now here to-night in its infancy pleads the cause of suffering woman in tones of thunder. The noble band of women that put this Institution into operation, deserve no less credit for wisdom and foresight, than for benevolence and liberality. For they saw that its works would be the most eloquent appeal that could be made for aid in its support—and when it has the hearty co-operation and sanction of such illustrious names as Francis, and Mott, and Stevens, and Delafield, and Green, the learned heads of the Medical Profession, who shall say that the liveliest sympathy for its perpetuity shall not be felt in every household?

The Woman's Hospital has not only served the experimental purpose of presenting its own claims for support, but it demonstrates the need for enlargement. When we have the testimony of yourself, Sir, and of Dr. Mott, in its favor, by contrasting its great achievements with the meagre efforts of France and other foreign countries, ought we not to feel a sort of national pride, as well as State interest, in sustaining and building up this noble Institution?

Every one of the laymen who have spoken here this evening, have alluded to our distinguished fellow-citizens of the medical profession. It is not necessary for me to glorify them, but it is fit to say, that it is the glory of their profession, that they never hide their light under a bushel. When any one of them makes a discovery, he puts it on the wings of the wind. He don't take a patent out for it; and when Dr. Sims made his great discovery in the South, the first thing he did was to publish it in the pages of a medical journal,—that science and suffering humanity everywhere should reap its benefits.

Mr. Benedict continued:—I hold, Sir, that a reasonable ostentation is proper in the exhibition of wealth—and that it is part of the duty of every rich man to build for himself some sort of a monument. And how should he do this? He should do it by building a *working* monument. I might cite to you many instances in foreign countries for examples, but, Sir, we have only to turn our eyes upon our friend, PETER COOPER, for an illustration. He builds a great monumental structure, which will carry the name of its munificent founder down from century to century, keeping it ever fresh in the minds of men. It is a great *working* monument; and when men build these structures in their own time, they become the witnesses of their own glorification—and night and day, as they walk the streets, in the midst of pleasure or duty, they enjoy the proud consciousness that these magnificent Institutions are working for the good of man.

Sir, you have beautifully and eloquently alluded to the Astor Library. This too, is a *working* monument—and one that will stand to perpetuate and glorify the name of its founder as long as literature and science have a place in our great country.

These imposing Institutions, grand in their way, are for the improvement of the mind. Is it possible to present to our consideration a more beautiful

plan for a magnificent monument than the plan of the Woman's Hospital, as proposed by you, Sir, to-night ?

From the bottom of my heart, Sir, I am sorry that I am not able to emulate the example of these good men, by investing half a million of dollars in a Hospital, to be dedicated to Woman. How much of the present income of a few wealthy men of New York is necessary to endow and make it one of the grandest working Institutions that the world can boast of ?

He further said :—No heathen nation ever had a hospital. No provision for the poor, the sick, and the suffering, exists anywhere except under the blessings of Christianity ; and when it is so clearly demonstrated that a Woman's Hospital is needed, should we not unite in saying that it shall be established in our own city of New York ? There are many reasons why this city and this State should take this Institution under their patronage, and I hope the demands in this regard will be promptly responded to.

Resolutions, as offered by Mr. Benedict :—

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the eminent success which has attended the treatment of organic female diseases, is a triumph both of science and humanity, the blessings of which it is an imperative Christian duty to extend and make available.

Resolved, That the zealous labors of the benevolent ladies, who have founded the WOMAN'S HOSPITAL, deserve and should obtain the earnest co-operation of the citizens of this metropolis.

Resolved, That this meeting tender their thanks to the members of the medical profession, for their early sympathy and encouragement of this enterprise.

Resolved, That a Committee of twelve, nominated by the Chair, be appointed to take such measures as in their judgment are most expedient for securing the requisite pecuniary aid to place this noble and holy enterprise on a permanent basis.

Resolved, That a Committee of seven, nominated by the Chair, be appointed to prefer the claims of this Institution to the consideration and support of the municipal authorities of the city, and the Legislature of the State.

Hon. Benjamin F. Butler next addressed the meeting. He said :—

REMARKS OF MR. BUTLER.

MR. PRESIDENT :—Many gentlemen have here to-night presented the claims of the Woman's Hospital in brief and stirring appeals—such appeals as issue from the hearts and lips of the speakers and reach the hearts of the hearers. Two words are blended together in the name of this institution, each of which contains in itself, a mighty volume. A Hospital. What is it ? One of the crowning fruits of that mission of love, which brought the Son of God into this guilty and wicked world ;—one of the very distinctive proofs of his Divine mission. Well as it been said, that, in all heathendom, ancient or modern, there has never been a hospital, and then, that other word, connected now for the first time, makes

the institution a higher Christian triumph. Well did that eloquent report say, that upon man this cause made its strongest appeals,—upon man, who has been blessed by a faithful and loving mother, a fond and devoted wife, or a lovely and affectionate daughter. No such man can be insensible to the appeal that is made by the union of the words, *Woman's Hospital*. Sir, I trust that this appeal will be presented to the people of this city, in connection with these resolutions which I have risen to second, and with the report which has been read; and I trust that the press, that great and powerful ministry of good, will diffuse as far as it can the thoughts and words which have been uttered here to-night. Sure I am, that if it can spread to the intelligence, and philanthropy, and Christian zeal of this great metropolis, money will flow in from our wealthy citizens, from the municipal authorities, and from the State. We do not want the character of these cases blazoned forth, to minister to prurient curiosity; but we want the facts to be spread before the community in brief and delicate terms, such as have been used here to-night—the real demands of suffering woman, to whom we owe our constant and unremitting devotion. It is only necessary that the friends of this cause should make it known, to cheer the hearts and carry out the wishes of the noble-minded persons who have founded the *Woman's Hospital*. Sir, I second the resolutions which have been read.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT then announced the names of the following gentlemen as members of the Committees contemplated in the resolutions:

*Legislative Committee of seven appointed under the Fifth Resolution:—*John W. Francis, M.D., Chairman; Hon. Luther Bradish, Rev. Dr. Hawks, Valentine Mott, M.D., Hon. B. F. Butler, Hon. H. J. Raymond, E. C. Benedict, Esq.

*Financial Committee of twelve appointed under the Fourth Resolution:—*Peter Cooper, Stewart Brown, Robert B. Minturn, Henry Grimell, T. C. Doremus, Wm. E. Dodge, the Rev. Dr. Osgood, Dr. S. Conant Foster, Jos. B. Collins, James Boorman, Joseph Lawrence, James Suydam.



ACT OF INCORPORATION.

STATE OF NEW YORK. }
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK. } ss.

WE, the undersigned, citizens of the State of New York, of full age, being desirous to associate ourselves for a benevolent purpose, do hereby, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided, certify that the name by which the Society or Incorporation hereby to be formed shall be known in law, is "THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL."

That the object and business of the Society is to provide a Hospital intended exclusively for the treatment of diseases peculiar to woman; that the locality of the Society is in the City of New York; that the Managers of said Society are thirty-five in number; that the names of the Managers for the first year of the existence of said Society are as follows, viz.:—Mrs. David Codwise, Mrs. Wm. B. Astor, Mrs. Ogden Hoffman, Mrs. Horace Webster, Mrs. Jacob Le Roy, Mrs. T. C. Doremus, Mrs. Dr. Horace Green, Mrs. Peter Cooper, Mrs. Dr. Alex. H. Stevens, Mrs. Dr. F. Barker, Mrs. Dr. F. U. Johnston, Mrs. G. G. Howland, Mrs. Elisha Peck, Mrs. D. D. Conover, Mrs. Dr. Warren, Mrs. Henry Baker, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Dr. Cheever, Mrs. A. P. Crane, Mrs. Cornelius Dubois, Mrs. M. A. Marvin, Mrs. J. C. Wheeler, Mrs. C. B. Hatch, Mrs. Wm. Edgar, Mrs. R. B. Minturn, Mrs. Joseph Lawrence, Mrs. W. B. Skidmore, Mrs. M. H. Grinnel, Mrs. E. C. Benedict, Mrs. H. J. Raymond, Mrs. G. D. Phelps, Mrs. Dr. Dewitt, Mrs. Wm. H. Aspinwall, Mrs. Wallen Pell, and that the Physicians and Surgeons of said Society, for the first year of its existence, are as follows:—John W. Francis, Valentine Mott, Alex. H. Stevens, Edward Delafield, and J. Marion Sims.

(Signed)

MARIEA CODWISE,
MARGARET R. ASTOR,
VIRGINIA E. HOFFMAN,
SARAH M. WEBSTER,
CHARLOTTE O. LE ROY,
SARAH P. DOREMUS.

November, 1855.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } ss.
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

I hereby certify, that on the thirtieth day of November, A.D., 1855, before me came MARTHA CODWISE, wife of David Codwise; MARGARET R. ASTOR, wife of William B. Astor; VIRGINIA E. HOFFMAN, wife of Ogden Hoffman; SARAH M. WEBSTER, wife of Dr. Horace Webster; CHARLOTTE O. LE ROY, wife of Jacob Le Roy; SARAH P. DOREMUS, wife of T. C. Doremus—all to me personally known to be the same persons who have signed the foregoing instrument, and who have been chosen and appointed as Managers of the Society known as "THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL," in said foregoing instrument mentioned and described, which said Society is to be called and known in law by the name aforesaid, and is to be located in the aforesaid City of New York. The particular business thereof is to provide a hospital intended exclusively for the treatment of diseases peculiar to woman. That the number of Directors or Managers of said Society for the first year of its existence, is thirty, and that the names of six of them are Martha Codwise, Margaret R. Astor, Virginia E. Hoffman, Sarah M. Webster, Charlotte O. Le Roy, and Sarah P. Doremus; being the several persons first above named, who severally and duly acknowledged to me that they had signed said foregoing instrument and certificate for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

J. E. CARY,

Commissioner of Deeds.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, formed in the city of New York, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-five, the sum of — to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said Society.

Constitution of the Woman's Hospital.

ARTICLE I.—This Society shall be known as "THE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION."

ARTICLE II.—This Institution shall be called "THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL."

ARTICLE III.—The object of this Association shall be to establish a Hospital for the treatment and cure of diseases peculiar to females.

ARTICLE IV.—Each subscriber of not less than Three Dollars annually, shall be a member of the Association, and be entitled to recommend one patient to the Hospital every year.

ARTICLE V.—Each subscriber of Five Dollars annually, shall be a member and entitled to send, each year of the continuance of such subscription, two patients to the Hospital.

ARTICLE VI.—Each contributor of Fifty Dollars at one time, shall be a member for life, and entitled to send one patient every year to the Hospital.

ARTICLE VII.—Each contributor of One Hundred Dollars and upwards, shall be a Benefactor of the Hospital, and entitled to recommend two patients every year.

ARTICLE VIII.—The business of the Association shall be conducted by three Directresses, a Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Board of Managers. The Managers shall be chosen by a majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting, and shall appoint their own officers.

ARTICLE IX.—The Managers shall have power to hold Stated Meetings, enact By-Laws, fill any vacancy that may occur in their body between the Annual Meetings, and adopt such measures as may be necessary to conduct the concerns of the Institution.

ARTICLE X.—The duties of the Directresses, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, shall be such as are generally understood to be connected with their respective offices.

ARTICLE XI.—Either Directress, with the concurrence of two Managers, shall have power to call a Special Meeting of the Board of Managers, or of the Association.

ARTICLE XII.—Drafts on the Treasury must be drawn by the Secretary, and countersigned by a Directress and one Manager.

ARTICLE XIII.—The Directresses shall have power to call at any time on any of the Officers or Appointees of the Institution, either Executive or Honorary, for such Reports pertaining to their peculiar duties as they may deem of importance to the interests of the Institution.

ARTICLE XIV.—The Medical Staff shall consist of one Attending Surgeon, two Consulting Surgeons, and three Consulting Physicians, to be elected by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE XV.—The Attending Surgeon shall have power to appoint an Assistant or Chief Nurse, subject to the approval of the Directresses.

ARTICLE XVI.—The Surgeon's Assistant must be a woman.

ARTICLE XVII.—It shall be obligatory on the Attending Surgeon to submit to the Board of Managers, at the Annual Meeting, such Report of the year's labors as may be deemed profitable to the objects and interests of the Institution.

ARTICLE XVIII.—Any report or suggestion emanating from the Board of Consulting Physicians and Surgeons, shall always secure honored attention.

ARTICLE XIX.—The Board of Physicians and Surgeons shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring in their body, subject to the approval of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE XX.—No patient shall be admitted to this Institution who is not affected with some disease peculiar to females.

ARTICLE XXI.—The Annual Meeting shall be held in January, at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE XXII.—Any amendment of the Constitution must have been proposed in writing at a previous meeting of the Board, and may be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, either at the Annual Meeting, or at a Special Meeting called for the purpose.

ARTICLE XXIII.—The Board of Managers shall consist of thirty-five Ladies, including Officers. Five Managers and one Directress shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

BY-LAWS.

1.—An Executive Committee shall be appointed to manage the household affairs of the Institution, and do all things necessary to promote the objects thereof; subject, nevertheless, to the control of the Board, to whom they shall report their proceedings at every Monthly Meeting.

2.—The Annual Meetings of the Association shall be held on the second Saturday in January, at 12 o'clock, at the Hospital.

3.—The Monthly Meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held on the first Saturday of every month, at the Hospital, at 12 o'clock.

4.—At the opening of every meeting, a portion of Scripture shall be read by the presiding officer.

5.—No member shall leave a meeting before its adjournment; nor shall any lady change her seat, or hold unnecessary conversation, before the Board has adjourned.

6.—The Executive Committee shall consist of seven members, to be appointed annually by the Managers.

7.—Applicants for admission must have the permission of the attending Surgeon, before entering the Hospital.

8.—The Executive Committee must in all cases determine the amount of board required from paying patients.

THE NEW YORK WOMAN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, IN ACCOUNT WITH MRS. JACOB LE ROY, TREASURER, AND MRS.
THOMAS C. DOREMUS, ASSISTANT TREASURER.

DR.

CR.

1856.	To Expenditures from April 28th, 1855, to January 12th, 1856, inclusive, - - -	\$4,512 33	1856.	By Receipts from April 28th, 1855, to January 12th, 1856, inclusive, - - -	\$3,035 43
				Balance, - - -	1,476 90
		\$4,512 33			\$4,512 33
Jan. 12.	To Balance due Charlotte O. Le Roy, Treasurer, and Sarah P. Doremus, Assistant Treasurer, - - -	\$1,476 90			

CHARLOTTE LE ROY, Treasurer.

SARAH P. DOREMUS, Assistant Treasurer.

(Since closing the year's account, the Appropriation of the Corporation has been received, and will come in next year's Report.)

The undersigned, having examined the above accounts of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the New York Woman's Hospital Association, submitted to him, and compared the vouchers of the several entries, finds them to be correct; and that there remains due the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, in account, fourteen hundred seventy-six dollars ninety cents.

HORACE WEBSTER.

New York, January 12th, 1856.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

For the Year 1855.

Astor, Mrs. Wm. B.	\$200 00	A Lady,	\$20 00	Hamilton, Mrs. John,	\$5 00
De Wolfe, Mrs. John D.	100 00	Griswold, Mrs. John,	20 00	Lambert, Mrs.	5 00
Graves, Mrs. Boonen,	100 00	Hoyt, Mrs. Edwin,	20 00	A Gentleman,	5 00
A Lady,	100 00	Ashton, Mrs. George,	10 00	Owen, Mrs.	5 00
Minturn, Mrs. R. B.	100 00	Adrance, Mrs.	10 00	A Lady,	5 00
Spencer, Mrs. Wm. H.	100 00	Bicknell, Mrs.	10 00	Peckham, Mrs. A. G.	5 00
A Lady,	100 00	Butler, Mrs. Charles,	10 00	Sandford, Miss,	5 00
Aspinwall, Mrs. W. H.	50 00	Burkhalter, Mrs.	10 00	Sandford, Miss Emily,	5 00
Brown, Mrs. James,	50 00	Cruger, Mrs. Douglas,	10 00	Smallwood, Mrs.	5 00
Baker, Mrs. H. J.	50 00	Cutting, Mrs. J. B.	10 00	Schicffelin, Mrs.	5 00
Bronson, Mrs. Arthur,	50 00	Cushman, Mrs. D. A.	10 00	Schemerhorn, Mrs.	5 00
Codwise, Mrs. David,	50 00	Donaldson, Mrs.	10 00	Thorne, Mrs.	5 00
A Lady,	50 00	Dulich, Mrs.	10 00	Tilden, Mrs.	5 00
Howland, Mrs. G. G.	50 00	Gale, Mrs. Wm.	10 00	Tucker, Mrs. G.	5 00
Kennedy, Mrs.	50 00	Halstead, Mrs. C. O.	10 00	Thomas, Mrs.	5 00
Lawrence, Mrs. Joseph,	50 00	Haight, Mrs. Henry,	10 00	Thorne, Mrs. William,	5 00
Robinson, Mrs. Nelson,	50 00	Holbrook, Mrs. E.	10 00	Wood, Mrs. Wm.	5 00
Stewart, Mrs. Lisenard,	50 00	Kelly, Mrs.	10 00	Van Arsdale, Mrs.	5 00
Taylor, Mrs. Moses,	50 00	McCurdy, Mrs. R. H.	10 00	A Friend,	4 00
Cowdrey, Mrs. (by Mrs.		Morse, Miss Ann,	10 00	Delaplaine, Mrs.	4 00
Peck,))	30 00	Nicholson, Mrs. Ellen,	10 00	A Lady,	3 00
Bleeker, Mrs. G. W.	25 00	Pierpont, Mrs. H. B.	10 00	Abernethy, Mrs.	2 00
Codington, Mrs. J. I.	25 00	Quin, Mrs. G. F.	10 00	Grenada, Mrs.	2 50
Heckscher, Mrs.	25 00	Sheffield, Mrs.	10 00	Stoneberry, Mrs.	2 50
Mead, Mrs. Ralph,	25 00	Stokes, Mrs. James,	10 00	A Lady,	3 00
Leroy, Mrs. Daniel,	25 00	Vandervoort, Mrs.	10 00	Do,	2 00
Sheafe, Mrs.	25 00	Whitney, Mrs. S.	10 00	A Friend,	3 00
Southworth, Mrs.	25 00	Bates, Mrs.	5 00	A Lady,	2 00
Smith, Mrs. Cornelius,	25 00	J. A. B.	5 00	Mesier, Miss,	5 00
Olyphant, Mrs. D. W.	25 00	Davies, Mrs.	5 00	Stewart, Mrs. John,	5 00
Vanderpool, Mrs. A.	25 00	Fild, Mrs. Dudley,	5 00	Stuart, Mrs. Joseph,	5 00
Wheeler, Mrs. John,	25 00	Jaffrey, Mrs.	5 00	Stuart, Mrs. James,	5 00
Heyward, Mrs. Sarah,	20 00	Inglis, Miss Margaret,	5 00	Murray, Miss Mary,	5 00
By Mrs. Crane,	8 70	Kingsland, Mrs.	5 00	A Lady,	1 00
Cleveland, Mrs.	30 00	Gould, Mrs. R. S.	5 00		

Annual Subscriptions.

Atwood, Mrs. Jacob S.	\$5 00	Lane, Mrs. David,	\$5 00	A Lady,	\$3 00
Anthon, Mrs. Dr. Henry,	5 00	Murray, Miss Mary,	5 00	A Friend,	3 00
Aspinwall, Miss Louisa,	5 00	Murray, Mrs. J. B.	5 00	James, Mrs. Bishop,	3 00
Bonnett, Mrs.	5 00	Murray, Mrs. E.	5 00	Jameson Mrs. Samuel,	3 00
Belknap, Mrs.	5 00	Miller, Mrs. D. S.	5 00	Green, Mrs. Dr. H,	3 00
Brooks, Mrs. James,	5 00	Outout, Mrs.	5 00	Hawkins, Mrs.	3 00
Baker, Mrs. Walter,	5 00	Peck, Mrs. Elisha,	5 00	Hatch, Mrs.	3 00
Brown,	5 00	Phelps, Mrs. Anson G.	5 00	Hoffman, Mrs. M.	3 00
Pull, Mrs. Wm. G.	5 00	Parish, Mrs.	5 00	Hoffman, Mrs. Ogden,	3 00
Benedict, Mrs. E. C.	5 00	Roosevelt, Mrs. James,	5 00	Lee, Mrs. James,	3 00
Blaine, Mrs.	5 00	Russell, Mrs. Charles H.	5 00	Leroy, Mrs. Robert,	3 00
Bacon, Mrs. Sherman,	5 00	Pierpont, Mrs.	5 00	Leavitt, Mrs. Ralph,	3 00
Conover, Mrs. D. D.	5 00	Sims, Mrs. Dr. J. M.	5 00	Lawrence, Mrs. Joseph,	3 00
Cottonet, Mrs.	5 00	Strong, Mrs. Wm. K.	5 00	Nixon, Mrs. J. M.	3 00
Doremus, Mrs. T. C.	5 00	Saltus, Mrs. E. M.	5 00	Mason, Mrs. M. W.	3 00
Dutich, Mrs.	5 00	Suydam, Mrs. James,	5 00	Morse, Mrs. A.,	3 00
De Forrest, Mrs. G. B.	5 00	Snydam, Mrs. C. R.	5 00	McCurdy, Mrs.	3 00
De Forrest, Mrs. B.	5 00	Saltus, Mrs. Francis,	5 00	Pell, Mrs. A.	3 00
Dodge, Mrs. W. E.	5 00	Thompson, Mrs.	5 00	Ogden Mrs. David,	3 00
Edgar, Mrs.	5 00	Aspinwall, Mrs. L. L.	3 00	Patters n, Mrs.	3 00
Griswold, Mrs. John,	5 00	Barker, Mrs. Dr.	3 00	Skidmore, Mrs.	3 00
Gregory, Mrs. James,	5 00	Baker, Mrs. Henry J.	3 00	Spelman, Mrs. Samuel,	3 00
Griswold, Mrs. Moses H.	5 00	Bennet, Mrs.	3 00	Spies, Mrs. A.	3 00
Gibon, Mrs. John,	5 00	Beatty, Mrs. James,	3 00	Van Buren, Mrs. Dr.	5 00
Green Mrs.	5 00	Binninger, Mrs. A.	3 00	Warren, Mrs. Dr.	3 00
Howland, Mrs. G. G.	5 00	Bangs, Mrs. Lemuel,	3 00	Waggstaff,	3 00
Heckscher, Mrs.	5 00	Coit, Mrs. H. A.	3 00	Williams, Mrs. C.	3 00
Hyde, Mrs. S. S.	5 00	Crocker, Mrs. S.	3 00	Watt, Mrs.	3 00
Hoffman, Mrs. L. M.	5 00	Crane, Mrs. A. P.	3 00	Wilcox, Mrs.	3 00
Hoffman, Mrs. M.	5 00	Chester, Mrs. W. W.	3 00	Webster, Mrs. Dr.	3 00
Howe, Mrs. J. M.	5 00	Crolius, Mrs.	3 00	A Lady,	3 00
Jones, Mrs. Lewis C.	5 00	du Bois, Mrs. C.	3 00	Do,	2 00
Laight, Mrs. H.	5 00	Dakin, Mrs.	3 00	A Friend,	3 00
Leroy, Mrs. Jacob,	5 00	Fish, Mrs. Hamilton,	3 00		

A donation of Bibles and Testaments from the Bible Society.
Books and Tracts from the Tract Society.
Ten dollars' worth of clothing from Mrs. Walter Baker, of Boston.

Medicines from Mr. Schieffelin, Mr. Maxwell,
Mr. Kiss, J. McKelson.
A Directory from the Publisher.
The Tribune and Christian Advocate.
Ventilators from Stillwell & Allen.

